during the 9th Five Year Plan, together with shortfall;

(b) the perspective plan for its development during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(c) whether such projects are being descriminated against vis-a-vis other infrastructure projects on account of 10% charge being levied on the gross receipts collected by BOT (Build Operate and Transfer) operators so as to strengthen the financial base of the National Highway Authority; and

(d) the names of private parties allowed to undertake the construction work on the National Highways as envisaged by Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised and as such it is too early to indicate targets.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) So far the following parties have undertaken construction work on National Highways under Build, Operate and Transfer scheme:

(i) M/s Atlanta Construction, Mumbai.

(ii) M/s Ideal Road Builders Ltd. Company, Mumbai.

(iii) M/s. Ashvika Construction Pvt. Ltd., Vasad, Gujarat.

Renovation of M.C. Road in Kerala

531. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals are pending with Government for clearance under Economically Important Scheme for the renovation of M.C. Road in Kerala;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared; and

(c) the work done in M.C. Road under this scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the 8th Plan, the proposal could not be approved under Economic and Inter-State Importance Scheme (F&I) due to paurity of funds. The proposal could be considered subject to availability of adequate resources in the 9th Plan which is yet to be finalised.

Merger of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation and Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.

532. SHRI YEERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to merge Central Inland Water Transport Corporation and Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited;

(b) whether it is a fact that both these units are incurring heavy losses;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce these losses;

(d) whether a merger would reduce over-head costs; and

(e) if so, the steps staken in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Grants for Maintenance of National *Hihways in Maharashtra*

533. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from Maharashtra State regarding enhancing maintenance grants for National Highways/ Revision of rates;

(b) if so, details thereof proposal-wise and action taken thereon during the last year;

(c) the details of proposals pending for decision and by when a final decision is likely to be taken project-wise; and